

## A New Species of *Pterotus* LeConte from California

(Coleoptera: Lampyridae)

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The genus *Pterotus* has contained a single species, *obscuripennis*, since LeConte proposed it in 1859. *P. obscuripennis* was described from Fort Tejon, California. It is known from southern Oregon to about El Rosario in northern Baja California.

The genus has been placed in the family Phengodidae and presently is considered a member of the Lampyridae. Its family affiliation may be resolved when females become known.

Celeste Green is gratefully acknowledged for preparing the illustrations.

### *Pterotus curticornis*, new species

Male: Form moderate sized, depressed; integument orange, antennae brownish, elytra black. Head small, retractable, sparsely punctate and pubescent; antennae (Fig. 4) extend-

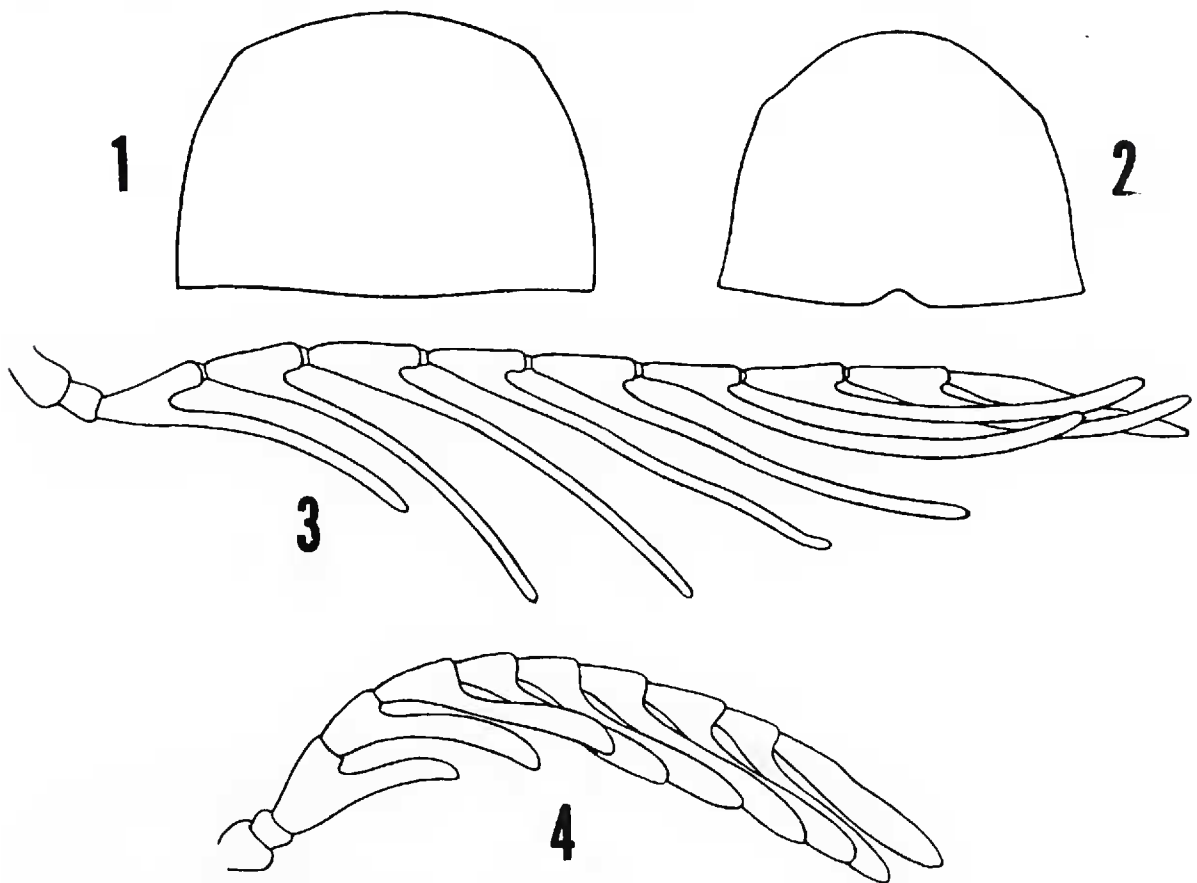


Fig. 1, Outline of pronotum of *Pterotus obscuripennis* LeConte, Fig. 2, outline of pronotum of *Pterotus curticornis* Chemsak, Fig. 3, antenna of *P. obscuripennis*, Fig. 4, antenna of *P. curticornis*.

ing to about base of elytra, segments three to ten pectinate, apical extensions broad, no more than three times longer than segment, segments usually orange, extensions brown. Pronotum (Fig. 2) broader than long, lateral margins foliate; disk irregularly convex, delimited laterally by deep impressions, base narrowly impressed, emarginate at middle, median line narrow, extending from about apical one third almost to basal margin, punctures finer, shallow, subconfluent; pubescence short, rather sparse. Elytra about two and one half times as long as broad, sides shallowly emarginate at middle; each elytron with four costae; disk moderately coarsely, irregularly, reticulate-punctate; pubescence short, black, subdepressed; apices narrowly rounded. Legs slender, orange, tarsi reddish. Abdomen orange, moderately densely clothed with pale depressed pubescence. Length, 11-12 mm.

Holotype male (California Academy of Sciences) from Boyd Desert Research Center, 4 miles S Palm Desert, Riverside Co., California, 12 April, 1963, at light (C.A. Toschi). Three male paratypes, same data (J.A. Powell, R.L. Langston).

This species may be separated from *P. obscuripennis* by the shorter antennae with shorter, broader extensions. The segments are also broader. Additionally the pronotum is less broad in *curticornis* and the legs are orange and reddish and not infuscated.

### Literature Cited

- LeConte, J. L. 1859. Catalogue of the Coleoptera of Fort Tejon, California. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 11:69-90.

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### SCIENTIFIC NOTE

**A Note on the Feeding Behavior of *Sosippus* sp. (Araneae:Lycosidae).** A female of *Sosippus* sp., probably *californicus* Simon, was taken from her large funnel web characteristic of this genus (Comstock, 1971, The spider book. Comstock Publishing Co., Ithaca, N.Y. 729 pp.) at Canyon Lake, Maricopa County, Arizona on August 8, 1976 along with an egg sac. She was kept in the laboratory at 23°-27°C throughout her period of confinement in a glass gallon jar. During her confinement in the container, the female constructed a new web. On August 11, 1976 the young emerged from the egg sac. When an adult cricket, *Acheta domestica* Linnaeus, was placed in the web, the adult female spider attacked and quieted it. Then the young gathered and fed in such numbers as to obscure the prey completely, while the mother moved off and remained some distance away. It was evident that the young fed as their abdomens became noticeably distended, while they remained gathered on the cricket. A second *Acheta domestica* was introduced while the young fed from the first, and the adult female *Sosippus* attacked and fed from the second.

This behavior would class these spiders as presocial according to Wilson (1974, The insect societies, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 548 pp.). Thus one additional family should be added to his list of spider families containing species exhibiting precursors of social behavior. EDWIN W. MINCH, *Arizona State University, Tempe 85281.*